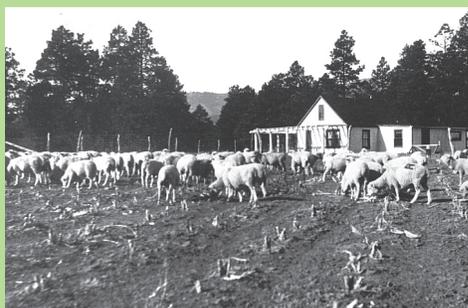


## WALK FROM THE STONE AGE TO THE ATOMIC AGE

Your walking tour spans eight centuries of Los Alamos history, from ancestral Pueblos, through homesteading on the Pajarito Plateau, to the future of science and technology. We hope that it will be just the beginning of your acquaintance with Los Alamos.



The central log portion of Fuller Lodge, designed by John Gaw Meem in 1928 for the Los Alamos Ranch School, still functions as a center of community activities.



Sheep graze contentedly at the H.H. Brook homestead in 1915 on the site of today's Historical Museum and Fuller Lodge.

# HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR MAP

OF DOWNTOWN LOS ALAMOS



## Welcome to Los Alamos!

Become a time traveler on this walking tour which takes you from ancestral pueblo dwellings to a homesteader's cabin, to the very spot where the first atomic bomb components were assembled!

It takes about 1¾ hours at a leisurely pace, but try to set aside time to enjoy the museums, shopping, restaurants and galleries along your way!



A mid-1940s view (to the east on Central at 20th Street)



Quonset huts, mud rutted streets, and wooden sidewalks attest to the temporary nature of a hurriedly built town of WWII.

### Prehistoric dwelling to the 21st century - all in a 12 block walk.

First inhabited by the ancestors of Northern New Mexico's Pueblo Indians, Los Alamos is located on the Pajarito Plateau of the Jemez Mountains, formed by the eruption of a giant volcano 1.4 million years ago. Prehistoric Pueblo ancestors and later Hispanic homesteaders used the plateau for seasonal farming and grazing. In 1917, H.H. Brook's Alamos\* ranch was purchased by Ashley Pond to start Los Alamos Ranch School, a boys' school which combined academics and a challenging physical curriculum. While World War II was raging, the Army Corps of Engineers took over the mesa and sealed it for a secret, crash mission to end the war.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

##### Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center

109 Central Park Square,

Los Alamos, NM 87544

(505)662-8105 or 1-800-444-0707

email [m vb@losalamos.org](mailto:mvb@losalamos.org)

online visitors guide: [visit.losalamos.com](http://visit.losalamos.com)

1-800-444-0707

##### Los Alamos Historical Museum

\*cottonwood/poplar/aspen trees

PO Box 43, Los Alamos, NM 87544

(505) 662-6272 Open Free of Charge

[www.losalamoshistory.org](http://www.losalamoshistory.org)

Winter: 10-4 Monday-Saturday, 1-4 Sunday

Summer: 9:30 -4:30 Mon - Sat, Sun. 11 - 4

##### Bradbury Science Museum

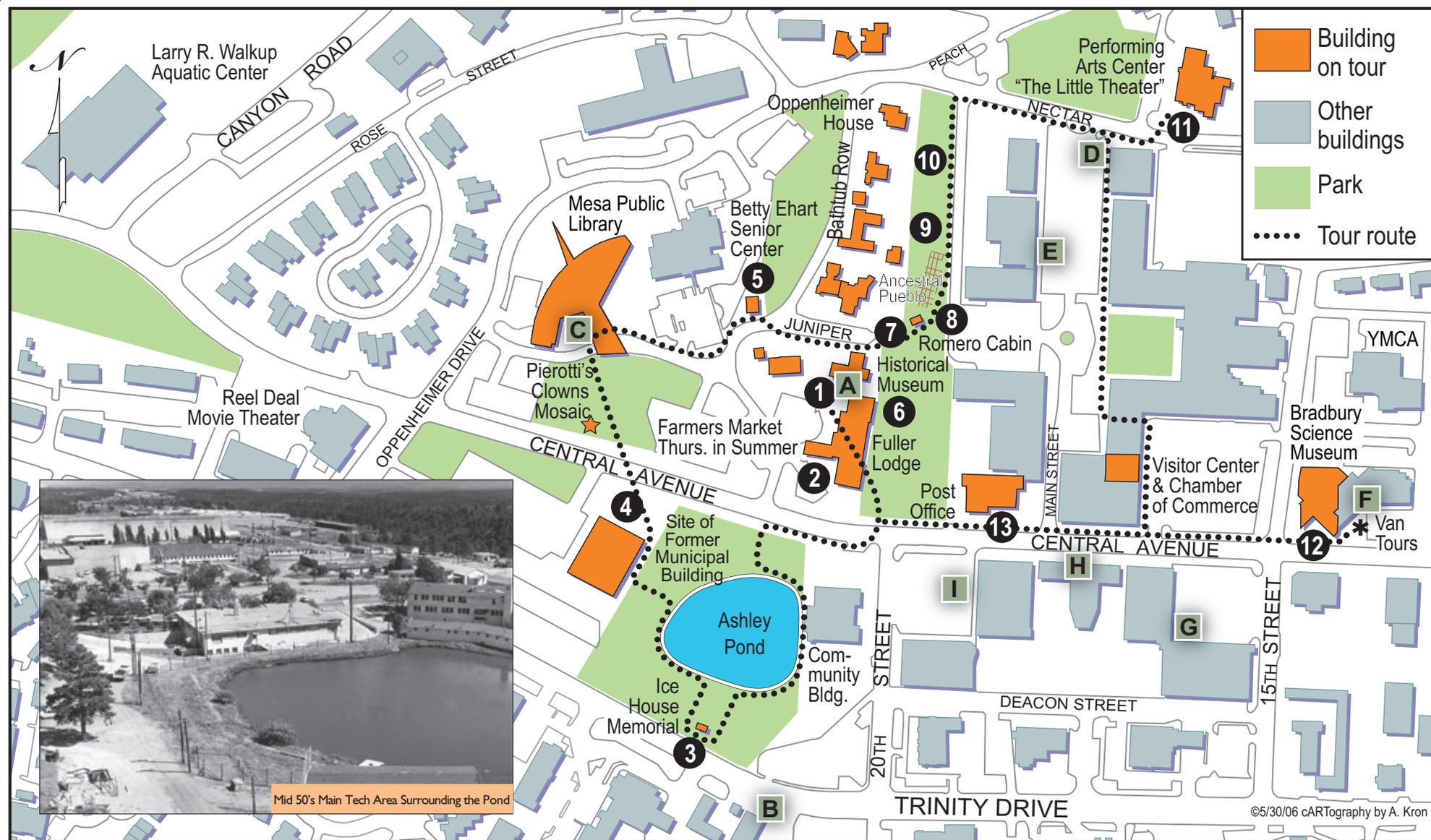
(505) 667-4444 Open 10-5 Tuesday-Saturday,

1-5 Sunday-Monday. Closed Thanksgiving,

Christmas and New Year's Day. Free admission

Photography allowed. [bsm.lanl.gov](http://bsm.lanl.gov).





## WALKING TOUR GUIDE FOR DOWNTOWN LOS ALAMOS

### 1 Los Alamos Historical Museum & Book Shop

Built as a guest cottage 1918 for Los Alamos Ranch School, the museum is the oldest continually inhabited structure in town. During the Manhattan Project (1943 to 1947), the cottage continued to serve as auxiliary guest quarters. Now it serves as an award-winning, comprehensive historical museum presenting our colorful and varied history. A tax-exempt museum shop fills a former bedroom.

**The Baker House** (adjacent to the Historical Museum) is a private residence. The Log home is part of Bathtub Row (see stop #10) and is marked with an interpretive plaque.

### 2 Fuller Lodge

Fuller Lodge was built in 1928 as the Ranch School dining room and kitchen. It also served as guest and nurse's quarters and contained quarters for staff. Named for Edward P. Fuller, a staff member at the Ranch School, it is made of 771 massive pine logs, personally chosen by architect John Gaw Meem and Ranch School Director A. J. Connell. After the Manhattan Project, wings were added in 1948 so the building could serve as the hotel. Now a community building, the Lodge is used for social gatherings and meetings. It houses various offices, the Art Center at Fuller Lodge, the Archives and Research Library of the Historical Museum, and the Los Alamos Arts Council.

### Art Center at Fuller Lodge

is located in both floors of the south wing of this building. Exhibits of works by local and regional artists change monthly. This non-profit visual art center is free to the public and includes a gift shop featuring locally produced arts.

### 3 Ice House Memorial

Today a memorial stands at the site of the original Ice House. During World War II, nuclear components of the Trinity device (a prototype nuclear weapon) were assembled here to be detonated later at Trinity Site 255 miles south near Socorro, New Mexico. During the Manhattan Project, the technical area laboratories surrounded Ashley Pond. These buildings were removed by the mid-



1960s. The post-war laboratory was built at its current location on the mesas south of here.

*Note also the adjacent memorial plaque to Manhattan Project workers dedicated in 1995, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.*

### Ashley Pond

began as a natural pond. The Ranch School insured its water supply by constructing a pipeline from Los Alamos Canyon. It was named for Ashley Pond II, the founder of the Los Alamos Ranch School, whose students could

not resist the geographical pun. The boys used it for summer and winter sports. Blocks of ice were cut from the pond in the winter and stored in the Ice House. The view of Ashley Pond Park is enhanced by a number of sculptures that are a part of the County art collection curated by the Art in Public Places Board.

## Touch the Sky Sculpture

In May of 2000, the County and adjacent lands were devastated by the 48,000 acre Cerro Grande wildfire. Nearly 400 homes were destroyed. This sculpture was erected a year later commemorating the fire and community rebuilding.

## Pierotti's Clowns Mosaic

On the north side of Central Avenue is a memorial to this popular and unbeatable 5-man softball team. It is marked with an interpretive plaque.

## Mesa Public Library

was originally located in government surplus buildings and then in a defunct cafeteria. The 1993 award-winning design is by architect Antoine Predock and is one of the highest circulation public libraries in the U.S.

## Central School, 1943-1955.

It was the most elaborate building constructed in Los Alamos during WWII. Its cost enraged the military head of the Manhattan Engineering District, General Leslie R. Groves, who intended that the wartime community be temporary. Its curriculum was planned by Dr. Walter W. Cook of the University of Minnesota who was hired to develop the perfect school for the children of Manhattan Project personnel.

## Ranch School Power House

The power house of the Los Alamos Ranch School was built in the early 1930s. In 1945 George Kistiakowsky,

the laboratory's explosives expert, and his new bride moved into the house. As a joke his friends built him a tool shed closely resembling an outhouse; they even carved a half-moon in the door! On and off the building has served as the Red Cross Chapter House.

## 6 The Los Alamos Memorial Rose Garden

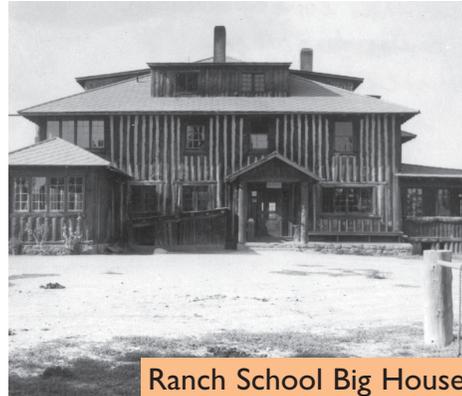
The land northeast of Fuller Lodge was originally open fields. In 1956 the rose garden was started here by members of the Los Alamos Garden Club. At that time there was no cemetery, so rose bushes were planted in memory of those who died in Los Alamos. The deceased were buried elsewhere. The Garden Club still actively maintains the Rose Garden.

## 7 Romero Cabin

Homesteading began on the Pajarito plateau in the late 1800s. The Romero and Gonzales families built this cabin in 1913 on their land on a nearby mesa. Like all homesteads on the Plateau, it was acquired by the U.S. Government in 1942; in 1984 it was moved to this site. Bences Gonzales, a Pajarito Plateau native who first farmed at Los Alamos and later worked, in succession, for the Ranch School, army, and Laboratory, helped his father-in-law, Victor Romero, build this cabin.

## 8 The Big House Site

Across the street from the Ancestral Pueblo Dwelling and Romero Cabin was the site of the original main building for the Los Alamos Ranch School. It was a building somewhat similar in style to Fuller Lodge. Students slept here year-round on screened porches as part of a physically as well as mentally challenging education. The Big House contained a library and, during the war years, the radio station, KRS. In 1943 it also housed some of the first scientists who shared its one bathroom.



Ranch School Big House

## Central Park Square

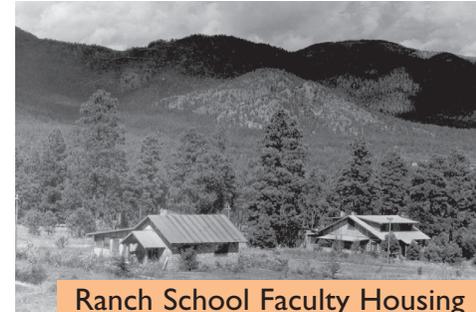
formerly known as The Community Center, was planned by architect Lawrence Sheridan and built by W.C. Kruger in the New Mexico Territorial Style. Built in 1949 under contract to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, it was a predecessor of modern enclosed shopping malls with perimeter parking. Among businesses housed here were a soda bar, theater, bowling alley, post office, bakery and grocery store.

## 9 Ancestral Pueblo Dwelling

In roughly 1225 CE, this site was home to a group of Tewa-speaking people, ancestors of Pueblo groups now living along the Rio Grande. They built with blocks of tuff, the welded volcanic ash common in this area. Some rooms were for cooking and sleeping, while others were for storage. The block structure to your left was the Ranch School firehouse. Built of stones scavenged from the ancient dwelling, it housed a man-powered pump truck.

## 10 "Bathtub Row"

These homes were originally built for the Ranch School as faculty housing and for special classes such as arts and crafts. Plush by comparison with typical Army housing, and having the only bath-tubs in town, they quickly acquired the name "Bathtub Row." Manhattan Project director J. Robert Oppenheimer's former home still stands at the corner of Bathtub Row and Peach Streets. The homes are private property and are therefore closed to the public.



Ranch School Faculty Housing

## 11 The Performing Arts Center

The Little Theater near the corner of 15th and Peach Streets was originally the East Cafeteria. It is one of the few "GI" buildings left from World War II days. Later it became a recreation hall before becoming a playhouse, operated by the Los Alamos Little Theater since 1971.

## 12 Bradbury Science Museum

Named for Norris E. Bradbury, second director of the Los Alamos Laboratory, the Science Museum features films and interactive exhibits interpreting Los Alamos national Laboratory's contributions to modern science, research, and technology, including its role in the Manhattan Project and current mission in National Security. First opened in 1963, it made a couple of moves within the Lab complex before being located to this site in 1993.

## 13 Post Office

During World War II, mail to Los Alamos residents was simply addressed to P.O. Box 1663, Santa Fe, New Mexico. When the Manhattan Project's existence was made known to the outside world in 1945, the "Secret City" could again use its Los Alamos postmark. The Post Office opened in its present location in November, 1948 on the site of the Ranch School Trading Post.



# Stop and Shop!

Shops along the way- Along your Historic Walking tour route, you will also find many fine shops.

Stop in and say hello!

**A. Los Alamos Historical Society Museum Bookshop:** original publications of the Historical Society, and many books related to Southwest and Manhattan Project history, along with postcards, souvenirs.

**B. Karen Wray Fine Art:** See the artist at work on her beautiful and original oil paintings for sale. Prints also available.

**C. Friends of the Library Bookshop:** volunteer-run used bookstore supporting many fine programs of Mesa Public Library. Bargains galore.

**D. Pet Pangaea:** gifts for pet lovers, pet supplies, food and bird seed; collars and leashes, pet supplements, toys, treats.

**E. Finishing Touch:** everything to decorate your home, from flooring to ceiling- paint, tile, custom blinds, glass tile, hardwood, cork flooring, expert installation.

**Quizno's:** fresh-made sub sandwiches, soups and salads.

**Los Alamos Visitor Center:** Conveniently located at 109 Central Park Square. Stop in for information on events going on in town, a coupon book and friendly conversation!

**F. Otowi Station Bookstore:** Specialists in atomic history and scientific and technical books. Books in all genres, maps, guidebooks, toys for learning and creativity.

**Atomic City Tours:** tour the Atomic City and surrounding area with a knowledgeable guide, leaving from the Otowi Station/Bradbury area.

**G. Metzger's Do It Best:** Batteries, flashlights, disposable cameras, gloves, hats, ponchos, drinks, candy, ice cream, snacks, pocket knives; picnic, backpack and camping supplies; fishing gear, propane.

**Cookin' in Style:** Everything for the gourmet cook, from gadgets to cookbooks to classes. Tea World- Freshly baked treats, soups, salads, sandwiches, and of course delicious teas from around the world.

**Home Run Pizza:** Pizzas, wings, salads, subs and dogs, for dine-in or carry-out. Free Delivery.

**H. CB Fox Department Store:** A-Bomb T-shirts, Coffee Mugs, Salsa. Rain wear. Sunglasses. UV-protective hats and shirts. Rugged footwear. Biking apparel, waterbottles, packs. Incredible Chocolates (Really!)

**CB Fox Kidz:** toys and clothing for the younger set.

**Central Avenue Grill:** Aroused American Food, Cozy Bar, Full Service, Private Dining Room Available, Catering, in the Heart of Downtown Los Alamos

**I. Ruby K's Bagel Shop:** Bagels so yummy you have to eat the "hole" thing.

